MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program

Community Meeting

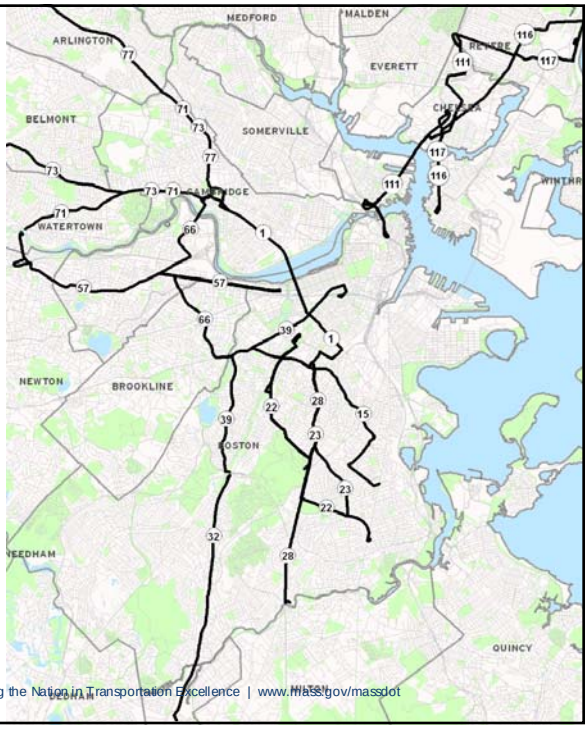
January 18, 2011
Cambridge Senior Center, Cambridge

Agenda

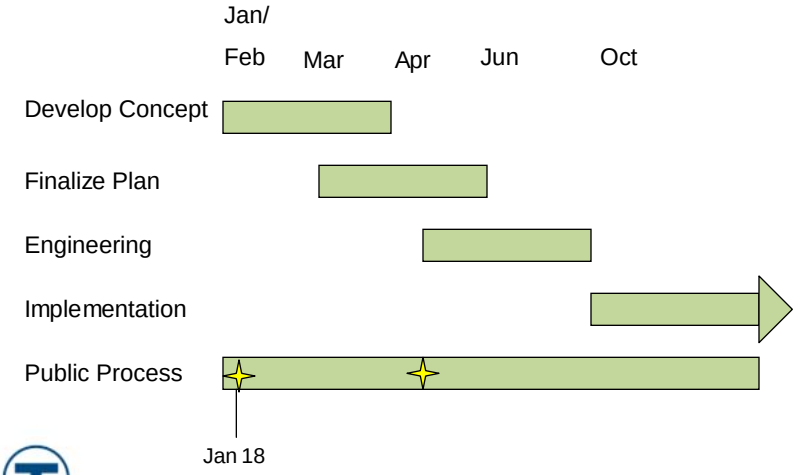
- Welcome and introductions
- Safety briefing
- Accommodations
- Key Bus Route Program overview
- Existing conditions
- Preliminary recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Introduction

- 15 Key Bus Routes
- $10 million funding



Project Schedule
Bus Route 1



Key Bus Route Goals

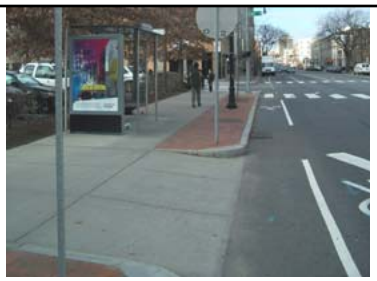
- **Reliability**
  - less bus bunching
- **Faster service**
  - fewer delays, less stops, shorter trip times
- **Improved Accessibility**
  - for seniors and persons with disabilities
- **Passenger amenities**
  - shelters, benches, signage, trash barrels

Route 1: Overview

- Harvard Square to Dudley Station
  - Via Mass Ave, Central Sq. Cambridge, and South End
  - Harvard University, MIT, Boston Medical Center, Symphony Hall
- Connects to:
  - Red, Green, Orange & Silver Lines
  - 30+ bus routes
- 5 miles long with 66 stops
- 4th busiest route-
  - 12,325 avg. daily boardings

Typical Conditions

- Bus stop length too short



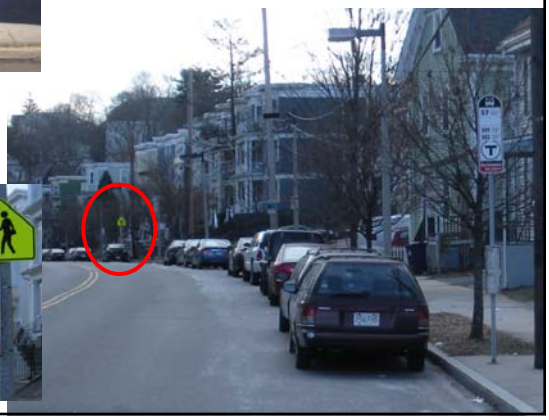
massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Rail & Transit Division

Typical Conditions

- Poorly located boarding area

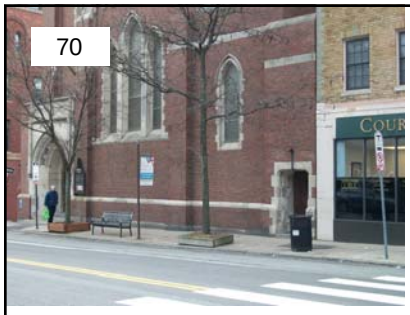
Typical Conditions

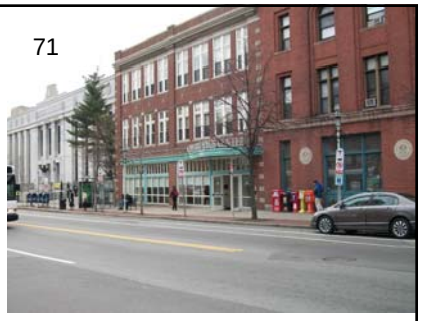
- Proximity of bus stops



Bus Stop Spacing

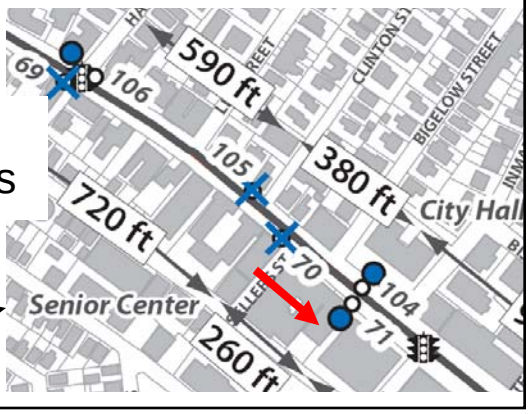
- Ideal spacing is 4 - 7 stops per mile
  (every 750-1,320 ft)
  (4-6 minutes walking distance)
- Route 1 has stops as close as 260 ft





Typical Conditions

- Proximity of bus stops



we are here

Factors for Improving Stop Locations

- Ridership – customer boardings and alightings
- Proximity to schools, medical centers etc
- Distance to adjacent stops
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Parking impacts
- Potential to add amenities – shelters, benches etc.

Bus Stop Consolidation

Benefits

- Shortens bus trip times
- Improves service reliability
- Minimizes “stop & go” experience
- Provides additional parking spaces
- Ability to provide better stop amenities

Good bus stop locations:

- Sufficient length to pull to the curb
- Clear boarding/alighting area
- Not blocking crosswalks or driveways
- Not too close together

Farside – 60ft

Nearside – 80ft

Required Bus Stop Lengths

Midblock (or after left hand turn) – 100ft

Add Pavement Markings

Signage Issues

Reliability Issues

Improving Reliability

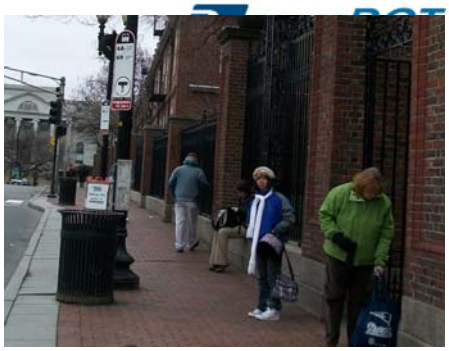
Improving Customer Information

Improving Customer Information

Protection from the Elements?

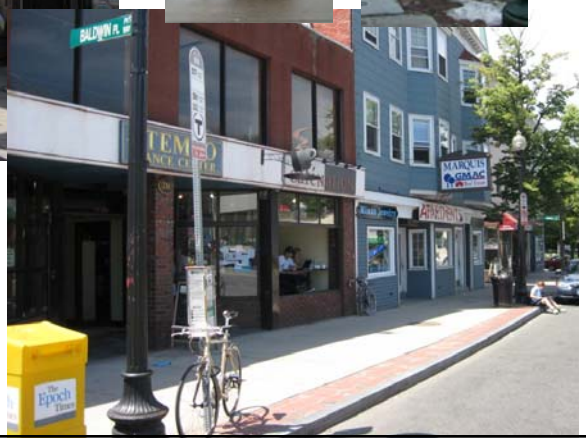
New Bus Shelters

Feeling Tired?

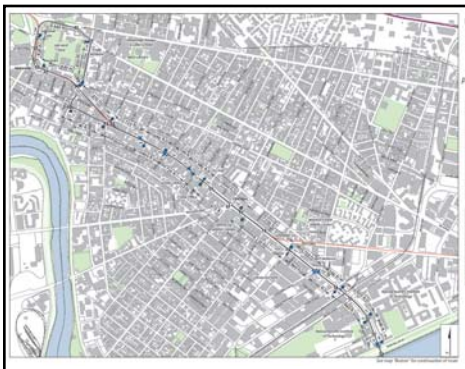


Rest on a New Bench

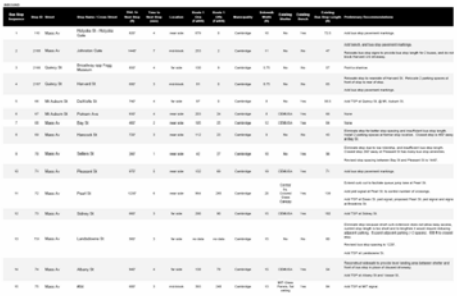
Help Keep Bus Stops Clean



Traffic Signal Improvements



Preliminary Recommendations



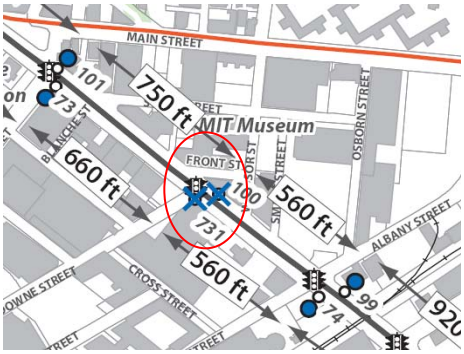
Mass Ave. @ Johnston Gate
Add bench, bus stop pavement markings

Mass Ave. @ Quincy St.
Lengthen bus stop for access

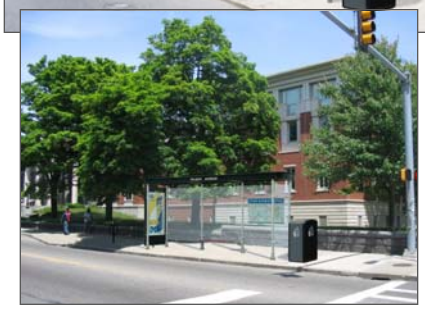
Mass Ave. @ Albany St.
Add trash receptacle

Mass Ave. @ Albany St
Eliminate driveway, repave sidewalk

Mass Ave. @ Landsdowne St.
Eliminate inbound/outbound stops



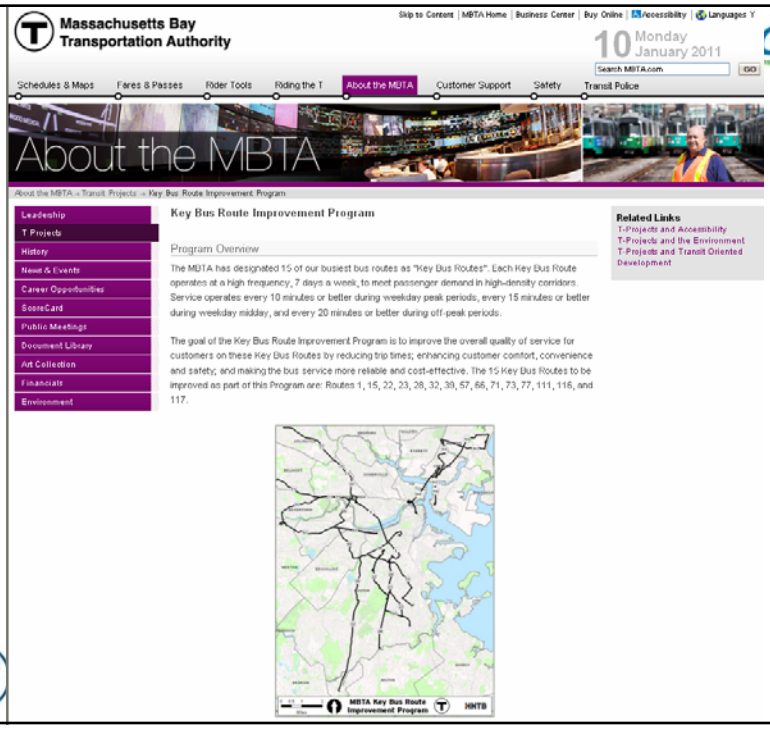
Example : Before & After
Bus Stop Improvements



Summary of Preliminary Recommendations

- 2 benches, 9 trash receptacles.
- 11 stops lengthened (5 InB; 6 OutB)
- 5 stops relocated (4 InB; 1 OutB)
- 19 stops eliminated/consolidated (10 InB; 9 OutB)
- + 12-16 parking spaces; - 8-9 spaces net change = + 3-8 spaces

Public Outreach



massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Rail & Transit Division

Comments and Next Steps

- Project Updates at www.mbta.com/keybusroutes
- Mail to Operations and Service Development, 45 High St, Boston, MA 02110
- Email to keybusroutes@mbta.com
- Next community meeting
  - Route 1: January 24, 2011 @ 6:30 PM
    USES, 566 Columbus Ave, Boston
- Discussion

Community Meeting Dates

Route	Date	Time	Location	Address
1	Tuesday, January 18	6:30 – 8:00	Cambridge Senior Center	806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
1	Monday, January 24	6:30 – 8:00	United South End Settlements	566 Columbus Ave, Boston
57	Tuesday, January 11	7:00 PM	Old Newton Corner Library	126 Vernon Street, Newton
57	Monday, January 31	6:30 – 8:00	Boston Arts Academy	174 Ipswich Street, Boston
66	Wednesday, January 19	6:00 – 7:30	Honan-Allston Branch Library	300 North Harvard Street, Boston
66	Thursday, January 20	6:30 – 8:00	Tobin Community Center	1481 Tremont Street, Boston
66	Wednesday, January 26	6:30 – 8:00	Brookline Town Hall	333 Washington Street, Brookline

Discussion

These are

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

We want to hear from you!